

Amendments to the Claims

1 Claim 1 (currently amended): A method of preparing information usable in theft detection using
2 radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, comprising steps of:

3 creating a unique correlator value, for a current transaction comprising a plurality of items
4 being purchased together, as a function of one or more values; and

5 storing the unique correlator value in an RFID tag affixed to each of the one or more
6 items, such that correlator values stored in RFID tags affixed to a group of items can
7 subsequently be compared to determine whether the items in the group were all purchased in one
8 transaction presented for purchase in the current transaction.

1 Claim 2 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 1, further comprising the step of
2 storing the unique correlator value in a database of previous transactions, such that the
3 subsequent comparison can consult the database to determine whether any of the items in the
4 group were purchased in any of the previous transactions.

1 Claim 3 (currently amended): A method of detecting potential theft using radio frequency
2 identification ("RFID") technology, comprising steps of:

3 searching locating, in an RFID tag affixed to each [[or]] of a plurality of one or more
4 items possessed by a shopper, [[for]] a correlator value previously written therein as a unique,
5 transaction-specific value; and

6 concluding that selected ones of the items possessed by the shopper were potentially not
7 paid for if the located correlator value for the selected items is not identical to the located do not

8 have an identical correlator value ~~[[to]]~~ for the other possessed items.

1 Claim 4 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 3, ~~wherein the concluding step~~
2 further comprising ~~comprises~~ the steps of:
3 determining whether each of the selected items was paid for in a previous transaction by
4 searching a database of previous transactions wherein correlator values of the previous
5 transactions are stored, looking for the correlator value found in the RFID tag of [[the]] that
6 selected item items, prior to the conclusion; and
7 concluding that any of the selected [[items]] item was paid for if the correlator value for
8 that selected item is located in the determining step of searching the database.

1 Claim 5 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 3, ~~further comprising the steps of:~~
2 wherein the previously-written
3 ~~initially creating the correlator value as a unique correlator value for a current transaction;~~
4 was created, for a particular transaction comprising a plurality of items purchased together, using
5 a function computed over one or more values, and was written[[; and]]
6 ~~previously storing the initially-created correlator value in an RFID tag affixed to each of~~
7 the one or more items presented for purchase in the current particular transaction, such that the
8 items are thereby associated with one another, prior to operation of the searching locating step.

1 Claim 6 (original): The method according to Claim 3, wherein the concluding step concludes
2 that selected ones of the possessed items were paid for if those selected ones were in the

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3 shopper's possession when the shopper entered an establishment in which a transaction
4 represented by the correlator value was conducted.

1 Claim 7 (currently amended): The method according to Claim 3, further comprising the step of
2 remembering each item that was in the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an
3 establishment in which a transaction represented by the correlator value was conducted, and
4 wherein the searching locating and concluding steps do not apply to the remembered items.

1 Claim 8 (currently amended): A system for preparing information usable in theft detection using
2 radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, comprising:

3 means for creating a unique correlator value, for a current transaction comprising a
4 plurality of items being purchased together, as a function of one or more values; and

5 means for storing the unique correlator value in an RFID tag affixed to each of the one or
6 more items, such that correlator values stored in RFID tags affixed to a group of items can
7 subsequently be compared to determine whether the items in the group were all purchased in one
8 transaction presented for purchase in the current transaction.

1 Claim 9 (currently amended): The system according to Claim 8, further comprising means for
2 storing the unique correlator value in a database of previous transactions, such that the
3 subsequent comparison can consult the database to determine whether any of the items in the
4 group were purchased in any of the previous transactions.

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1 Claim 10 (currently amended): A system for detecting potential theft using radio frequency
2 identification ("RFID") technology, comprising:

3 means for ~~searching~~ locating, in an RFID tag affixed to each ~~[[or]]~~ of a plurality of one or
4 ~~more items~~ possessed by a shopper, ~~[[for]]~~ a correlator value previously written therein as a
5 unique, transaction-specific value; and

6 means for concluding that selected ones of the items possessed by the shopper were
7 potentially not paid for if the located correlator value for the selected items is not identical to the
8 located ~~do not have an identical correlator value~~ ~~[[to]]~~ for the other possessed items.

1 Claim 11 (currently amended): The system according to Claim 10, wherein the means for
2 concluding further ~~comprising~~ comprises:

3 means for determining whether each of the selected items was paid for in a previous
4 transaction by searching a database of previous transactions wherein correlator values of the
5 previous transactions are stored, looking for the correlator value found in the RFID tag of ~~[[the]]~~
6 that selected item ~~items, prior to the conclusion~~; and

7 means for concluding that ~~any of the selected~~ ~~[[items]]~~ item was paid for if the correlator
8 value for that selected item is located by the means for determining ~~searching~~ the database.

1 Claim 12 (currently amended): The system according to Claim 10, further comprising: wherein
2 the previously-written

3 ~~means for initially creating the correlator value as a unique correlator value for a current~~
4 transaction; was created, for a particular transaction comprising a plurality of items purchased

5 together, using a function computed over one or more values, and was written[[; and]]
6 ~~means for previously storing the initially created correlator value in an RFID tag affixed~~
7 ~~to each of the one or more items presented for purchase in the current particular transaction, such~~
8 ~~that the items are thereby associated with one another, prior to operation of the means for~~
9 ~~searching locating.~~

1 Claim 13 (original): The system according to Claim 10, wherein the means for concluding
2 concludes that selected ones of the possessed items were paid for if those selected ones were in
3 the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an establishment in which a transaction
4 represented by the correlator value was conducted.

1 Claim 14 (currently amended): The system according to Claim 10, further comprising means for
2 remembering each item that was in the shopper's possession when the shopper entered an
3 establishment in which a transaction represented by the correlator value was conducted, and
4 wherein the means for searching locating and means for concluding do not apply to the
5 remembered items.

1 Claim 15 (currently amended): A computer program product for preparing information usable in
2 theft detection using radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, the computer program
3 product embodied on one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

4 computer-readable program code means for creating a unique correlator value, for a
5 current transaction comprising a plurality of items being purchased together, as a function of one

6 or more values; and

7 computer-readable program code means for storing the unique correlator value in an
8 RFID tag affixed to each of the one or more items, such that correlator values stored in RFID tags
9 affixed to a group of items can subsequently be compared to determine whether the items in the
10 group were all purchased in one transaction presented for purchase in the current transaction.

1 Claim 16 (currently amended): The computer program product according to Claim 15, further
2 comprising computer-readable program code means for storing the unique correlator value in a
3 database of previous transactions, such that the subsequent comparison can consult the database
4 to determine whether any of the items in the group were purchased in any of the previous
5 transactions.

1 Claim 17 (currently amended): A computer program product for detecting potential theft using
2 radio frequency identification ("RFID") technology, the computer program product embodied on
3 one or more computer-readable media and comprising:

4 computer-readable program code means for searching locating, in an RFID tag affixed to
5 each [[or]] of a plurality of one or more items possessed by a shopper, [[for]] a correlator value
6 previously written therein as a unique, transaction-specific value; and

7 computer-readable program code means for concluding that selected ones of the items
8 possessed by the shopper were potentially not paid for if the located correlator value for the
9 selected items is not identical to the located do not have an identical correlator value [[to]] for the
10 other possessed items.

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1 Claim 18 (currently amended): The computer program product according to Claim 17, wherein
2 the computer-readable program code means for concluding further comprising comprises:

3 computer-readable program code means for determining whether each of the selected
4 items was paid for in a previous transaction by searching a database of previous transactions
5 wherein correlator values of the previous transactions are stored, looking for the correlator value
6 found in the RFID tag of ~~[[the]]~~ that selected item items, prior to the conclusion; and

7 computer-readable program code means for concluding that ~~any of the selected~~ ~~[[items]]~~
8 item was paid for if the correlator value for that selected item is located by the computer-readable
9 program code means for determining searching the database.

1 Claim 19 (currently amended): The computer program product according to Claim 17, further
2 comprising: wherein the previously-written

3 ~~computer-readable program code means for initially creating the correlator value as a~~
4 ~~unique correlator value for a current transaction; was created, for a particular transaction~~
5 comprising a plurality of items purchased together, using a function computed over one or more
6 values, and was written[[; and]]

7 ~~computer-readable program code means for previously storing the initially-created~~
8 ~~correlator value in an RFID tag affixed to each of the one or more items presented for purchase in~~
9 the current particular transaction, such that the items are thereby associated with one another,
10 prior to operation of the computer-readable program code means for searching locating.

1 Claim 20 (original): The computer program product according to Claim 17, wherein the
2 computer-readable program code means for concluding concludes that selected ones of the
3 possessed items were paid for if those selected ones were in the shopper's possession when the
4 shopper entered an establishment in which a transaction represented by the correlator value was
5 conducted.

1 Claim 21 (currently amended): The computer program product according to Claim 17, further
2 comprising computer-readable program code means for remembering each item that was in the
3 shopper's possession when the shopper entered an establishment in which a transaction
4 represented by the correlator value was conducted, and wherein the computer-readable program
5 code means for ~~searching~~ locating and computer-readable program code means for concluding do
6 not apply to the remembered items.